

CITY COUNCIL
Alma Hernandez, Mayor Pro-Tem
Jane Day
Michael J. Hudson
Wanda Williams,



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

First and Third Tuesday
Every Month

CITY OF SUISUN CITY

701 Civic Center Blvd.
Suisun City, California 94585
Incorporated October 9, 1868

November 10, 2022

Solano County Civil Grand Jury
Carl W. DuBois, Foreperson
Via email: cdclower@solano.courts.ca.gov

Grand Jury Report Regarding Electric Vehicle Infrastructure in Solano County

This letter is in response to the aforementioned Grand Jury Report on Electric Vehicle Infrastructure in Solano County. The Grand Jury requires a response to Findings 1, 3, and 5. The Findings and Responses are as follows:

FINDING 1 – There will not be enough electric vehicle charging stations in Solano County to support the State’s goals for electric vehicles identified in Executive Order N-79-20.

RECOMMENDATION 1 – Solano Transportation Authority (STA) Board members commit to programs to increase the number of electric vehicle charging stations in their jurisdictions at a rate sufficient to meet Executive Order N-79-20.

SUISUN CITY RESPONSE - Suisun City has supported the use of electric vehicles by installing charging stations at the following locations:

- 1) Park-N-Ride lot located at the northeast corner of Main Street and Lotz Way;
- 2) Public parking lot located east of Main Street between Driftwood Drive and Common Street;
- 3) City Hall behind the Police Station; and
- 4) Driftwood Drive public parking lot located west of Civic Center Boulevard.

The City will continue to seek opportunities to provide additional electric charging stations as funding allows and will condition future projects to provide EV charging stations and/or to provide EV ready facilities, as required in the California Building Code.

FINDING 3 – In the 2018 EVTP, the STA Board approved a plan to install trailblazing signs to identify locations of electric vehicle charging stations. As of 2022, there is no evidence of progress on that plan.

RECOMMENDATION 3 – STA Board work with jurisdictions and agencies to install signage denoting the location of existing charging stations and to include appropriate signage as a component of future installations.

SUISUN CITY RESPONSE - The City has installed wayfinding signs to direct electric vehicle owners to the existing charging stations and we will work with STA to coordinate future signage, as needed.

FINDING 5 – AB 1236 and AB 970 require all California cities and counties to develop an expedited, streamlined permitting process for electric vehicle charging stations. Not all jurisdictions in Solano County have complied.

RECOMMENDATION 5 – All Solano County jurisdictions comply with streamlined permitting requirements, including adoption of an ordinance and checklist as required by AB 1236 and AB 970.

SUISUN CITY RESPONSE – Suisun City approved a streamlined ordinance on July 26, 2022 (see attached).

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.



Greg Folsom
City Manager

Attachment: Ordinance No. 2022-795 Electric Vehicle Charging Streamlining

cc: City Council

ORDINANCE NO. 795

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUISUN CITY, CALIFORNIA, ADDING SECTION 15.04.400 (ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS) TO CHAPTER 15.04 (PERMITS – UNIFORM CODES) OF TITLE 15 (BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION) SETTING FORTH PROCEDURES FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING SYSTEMS AND FINDING OF EXEMPTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

WHEREAS, the City of Suisun City has consistently promoted and encouraged the use of fuel-efficient electric vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the State of California adopted Assembly Bill No. 1236 (“AB 1326”), adding Section 65850.7 to the Government Code, which requires local agencies to adopt an ordinance that creates an expedited and streamlined permitting process for electric vehicle charging systems; and

WHEREAS, the State of California adopted Assembly Bill No. 970 (“AB 970”) in 2021, which updated the requirements set forth in Government Code Section 65850.7 and added a new Government Code Section 65850.71 pertaining to processing of electric vehicle charging system applications; and

WHEREAS, AB 970 requirements will be operative for cities with a population of less 200,000 residents effective January 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, creation of an expedited, streamlined permitting process for electric vehicle charging stations would facilitate convenient charging of electric vehicles and help reduce the City’s reliance on fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Suisun City desires to adopt an ordinance to comply with the requirements of California Government Code Sections 65850.7 and 65850.71.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUISUN CITY, CALIFORNIA DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 15.04.400 (Electric Vehicle Charging Stations) of Chapter 15.04
2 (Permits – Uniform Codes) of Title 15 (Buildings and Constructions) of the Suisun City
3 Municipal Code is added to read:

4 **15.04.400 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations**

5 A. Purpose and intent. The purpose of this section is to promote and encourage the use
6 of electric vehicles by creating an expedited, streamlined permitting process for electric vehicle
7 charging stations while promoting public health and safety and preventing specific adverse
8 impacts in the installation and use of such charging stations. This section is also intended to
9 comply with California Government Code Sections 65850.7 and 65850.71, including
10 successor statutes and amendments thereto.

11 B. Definitions. The following words and terms as used in this section shall have
12 the meanings hereinafter respectively set forth:

13 “Building official” shall mean the Building Official for the City of Suisun City and shall
14 include their designee.

15 “Electronic submittal” shall include submittal of a document or application including but not
16 limited to one of the following methods:

- 17 1. Electronic mail or email.
- 18 2. The internet.
- 19 3. Facsimile.

20 “Electric vehicle charging station” or “charging station” means any level of electric vehicle
21 supply equipment station that is designed and built in compliance with Article 625 of the
22 California Electrical Code, including any amendment or successor statutes thereto, and delivers
23 electricity from a source outside an electric vehicle into a plug-in electric vehicle. Electric
24 vehicle charging stations and electric vehicle charging supply equipment shall refer to
25 equipment including, but not limited to, the following: conductors (including ungrounded,
26 grounded, and equipment grounding conductors), electric vehicle connectors, attachment
27 plugs, and all other fittings, devices, power outlets, or apparatus installed specifically for the
28 purpose of transferring energy between the premises wiring and the electric vehicle.

1 A “feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the specific, adverse impact” includes,
2 but is not limited to, any cost-effective method, condition, or mitigation imposed by a city,
3 county, or city and county on another similarly situated application in a prior successful
4 application for a permit.

5 “Specific, adverse impact” means a significant, quantifiable, direct, and unavoidable impact,
6 based on objective, identified, and written public health or safety standards, policies, or
7 conditions as they existed on the date the application was deemed complete.

8 B. Expedited electric vehicle charging station permitting. Electric Vehicle Charging
9 Stations which qualify for expedited permit processing, pursuant to Government Code Section
10 65850.7, including any amendment or successor statute thereto, shall be subject to the
11 procedures set forth in this section.

12 C. Expedited Review Process. Consistent with Government Code Section 65850.7,
13 including any amendment or successor statutes thereto, the building official shall implement
14 an expedited permit review process for electric vehicle charging stations and adopt a checklist
15 of all requirements with which electric vehicle charging stations shall comply with in order to
16 be eligible for expedited review. The city’s adopted checklist will be published on the city’s
17 publicly accessible website.

18 D. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Permit Application and Processing.

19 1. All electric vehicle charging stations shall be subject to the following standards:

20 a. An electric vehicle charging station shall meet all applicable safety and performance
21 standards established by the California Electrical Code, the Society of Automotive Engineers,
22 the National Electrical Manufacturers Association, and accredited testing laboratories such as
23 Underwriters Laboratories and, where applicable, rules of the Public Utilities Commission
24 regarding safety and reliability. Electric vehicle charging station systems and equipment shall
25 also conform to all applicable provisions and requirements of the California Building Code.

26 b. The installation of electric vehicle charging station systems and equipment shall be in
27 accordance with the City’s adopted electric vehicle charging station checklist established by
28 the building official.

1 c. All electric vehicle charging stations shall be installed only after approval by the
2 building official and only after issuance of the necessary building permit and any and all other
3 permits required by the City relating to the plumbing, electrical, and mechanical characteristics
4 of the system.

5 2. Upon installation of an electric vehicle charging station, the applicant shall be
6 responsible for obtaining authorization and approval to connect the electric vehicle charging
7 station to the local utility provider's electricity grid. In the event the city owns or operates an
8 electric utility into which connection is proposed by the applicant, the application shall
9 demonstrate compliance with the city's utility interconnection policies prior to approval.

10 3. The building official shall condition the permit as they deem necessary in order to
11 mitigate or avoid specific, adverse impacts of the charging station.

12 4. Consistent with Government Code Section 65850.7, including any amendments or
13 successor statutes thereto, the building official shall not condition the approval for any electric
14 vehicle charging station permit on the approval of such a system by an association, as that term
15 is defined by Civil Code Section 4080.

16 E. Permit Denial. If the building official makes a written finding based on substantial
17 evidence that the electric vehicle charging station could have a specific, adverse impact upon
18 the public health or safety, and there is no feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid
19 the specific, adverse impact, the application shall be denied and the City may require the
20 applicant to apply for a conditional use permit pursuant to Chapter 18.73.

21 F. Appeal to the planning commission. Any permit determination by the building official
22 shall be final and effective unless appealed to the planning commission pursuant to Chapter
23 18.84.

24 **SECTION 2.** The City Council finds that the adoption of this ordinance is exempt from
25 having to comply with the requirements of CEQA, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section
26 15061(b)(3) which states: "CEQA only applies to project which have the potential for causing
27 a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no
28 possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the

1 activity is not subject to CEQA.” There is no possibility the City’s activity in adopting this
2 ordinance, as mandated by the State, will have a significant, adverse, effect on the environment.

3 **SECTION 3.** This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect thirty (30) days after its
4 adoption following second reading.

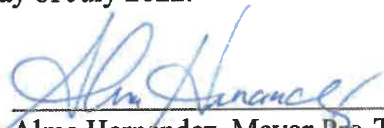
5 **SECTION 4.** The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to certify as the passage
6 of this Ordinance and to give notice thereof by causing copies of this Ordinance to be posted
7 in three public places throughout the City, or published in a county newspaper that is circulated
8 in the City, within 15 days after its passage, there being no newspaper of general circulation
9 printed and published within the City.

10 [SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

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PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council
of the City of Suisun City, California, on this 26th day of July 2022.


Alma Hernandez, Mayor Pro-Tem

ATTEST:


Anita Skinner, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL CONTENT:



Aleshire & Wynder, LLP

CERTIFICATION

I, Anita Skinner, City Clerk of the City of Suisun City and ex-officio Clerk of the City Council of said City, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing ordinance was introduced at a regular meeting of the said City Council held on Tuesday, July 19, 2022, and regularly passed and adopted at a regular meeting of said City Council held on Tuesday, July 26, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:	Council Members:	<u>Day, Hudson, Hernandez</u>
NOES:	Council Members:	<u>None</u>
ABSENT:	Council Members:	<u>Williams</u>
ABSTAIN:	Council Members:	<u>None</u>

WITNESS my hand and the seal of said City this 26th day of July 2022.


Anita Skinner, City Clerk